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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa -- CBC journalists will enjoy greater and easier access for covering stories within the Soviet Union, it was announced today by Pierre Juneau, President of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

This is the result of a Renewal of an Agreement that was first signed in 1974 between the CBC and Gosteleradio, the national broadcasting service of the Soviet Union. The renewal will be followed by an Exchange of Notes on the subject between the governments of the respective countries. CBC broadcasters will now be able to enter the Soviet Union with only a 24-hour notice, and stay in Moscow or travel to either Kiev or Leningrad upon arrival. Similar access arrangements to Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto will be available to Soviet broadcast journalists. Further travel arrangements can be made under existing procedures.

Prior to this Renewal, CBC journalists were obliged to apply for a visa whenever they wished to visit the Soviet Union to cover breaking news stories. The wait for a visa took at least ten days, by which time the urgency had usually passed, and Canadians had to make do with reports of such events from foreign newscasters.

"I am pleased that the CBC and Gosteleradio have been able to maintain and improve their relationship. The CBC is a recognized leader in broadcast journalism, and agreements such as the one signed today will help ensure that the Canadian public is well served through the timely broadcast of important stories," said Mr. Juneau.

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The Renewal was signed today by Mr. Juneau and Henrikus Ushkjavicius, Deputy Chairman of Gosteleradio, at the CBC's Head Office in Ottawa. Mr. Ushkjavicius was accompanied by Soviet Ambassador to Canada His Excellency Alexei Rodionov and German Solomatin of Gosteleradio's International Relations Department.

The new accord, which is valid indefinitely as long as both parties agree, also provides accreditation for a three-person crew to accompany the non-resident journalist/correspondent.

At present, the CBC maintains a bureau in Moscow with one correspondent, - Michael McIvor, for CBC English Radio. In the coming weeks, Don Murray, a bilingual correspondent, will be posted in Moscow to report for THE NATIONAL and LE TÉLÉJOURNAL.

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